

excretion, or their pleasure in chanting " bim-bom-bee-wee etc., should be called " sexual ", the answer could be roughly and very briefly summarised as follows :

1. Many adults retain sufficiently clear *memories* of their own secret games in childhood, say, from five to seven years and later, to be quite sure that, for example, the widespread " doctor " games (taking other children to the lavatory to urinate and defaecate, examining each other's genitals and buttocks, talking about these processes and so on and so forth) had exactly the same sexual quality, in feeling and sensation, as masturbation and other later sexual phantasies and experiences.

2. Close observation of the *behaviour of young infants* at certain stages of growth—round about, say, four to eight months and later—shows unmistakable signs of erotic pleasure during evacuation. (See note on p. 129. I have other records of a similar kind.) And observation of the behaviour of children of, say, four to six years, when they talk about excretory processes or are found trying to share these experiences, with mutual exhibition, etc., shows the same flushed excitement, the same tendency to furtiveness, and the same guilt and defiance as if the children are found in actual masturbation, in play with each other's genitals, or in talks about " what mothers and fathers do ", etc. Many of the details recorded here show the sexual meaning of these things to the children themselves very clearly, as will be brought out presently.

3. The psycho-analytic study of the *phantasies of children* (as well as of adults) shows that urination and defaecation have a profoundly erotic value, as well as an aggressive significance. Young children normally believe

that the sexual act between their parents actually consists in some such process as urination.

4. The intensive study of the *sexual life of adults*, including the intimate practices of many normal people, sexual per-versions (for example, male homo-sexuality), and such sexual disabilities as impotence and frigidity, makes it impossible to escape the view that the excretory processes have erotic value at certain stages of development, and retain this value in the unconscious levels of the mind even when they have lost it altogether in the conscious.